

REMARKS

The above election, along with the following remarks, is being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated October 25, 2004 (Paper No. 10212004).

As stated previously, Applicant hereby elects the continuing prosecution of the species of Figures 3A and 3B, without traverse.

As to the requirement to identify the claims readable on the elected species, the following claims are readable on the elected species of Figures 3A and 3B: Claims 1, 2, 5-12, 18-23, 28-31, 33-35, 44-45, and 50-51. The Examiner is respectfully requested to review the substance of Claims 1, 2, 5-12, 18-23, 28-31, 33-35, 44-45, and 50-51 which Applicant respectfully submits should be included in the elected species of Figures 3A and 3B and to indicate the allowability of the claims.

Applicant further respectfully submits that Claims 1, 2, 5-12, 18-23, 28-31, 33-35, 44-45, and 50-51 are also readable on other of the species identified in paragraph 1 of the Office action of October 25, 2004 (Paper No. 10212004), in addition to reading on the elected species of Figures 3A and 3B, and these claims should therefore not be construed as being limited to the elected species of Figures 3A and 3B.

Also, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 44 presently are generic claims as to all species identified in paragraph 1 of the Office action of October 25, 2004 (Paper No. 10212004).

The claims not readable on the elected species of Figures 3A and 3B, namely Claims 3, 4, 13-17, 24-27, 32, 36-43, and 46-49, are withdrawn from further prosecution without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant hereby reserves the right to file divisional applications on any or all of these withdrawn claims.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, Claims 1 through 51 are presently pending in this application. Claims 1, 21, 22, 31, 44 and 51 have been amended to correct formal errors and to better disclose and describe the features of the present invention as claimed. Entry of the amendments to these claims is respectfully requested. Also, Claims 3, 4, 13-17, 24-27, 32, 36-43, and 46-49, are withdrawn from further prosecution without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant hereby reserves the right to file divisional applications on any or all of these withdrawn claims.

Additional Amendments

The specification is being amended, as previously set forth herein, to correct formal errors and to better disclose and describe the features of the present invention as claimed. Entry of these amendments to the specification is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement

However, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement set forth in the Office action of October 25, 2004 (Paper No. 10212004) to elect a single disclosed species is respectfully requested.

While each of the species identified in paragraph 1 of the Office action of October 25, 2004 (Paper No. 10212004) may be a patentably distinct species, it is respectfully submitted that the Office action of October 25, 2004 (Paper No. 10212004) does not indicate their being a serious burden upon the Examiner in examining claims directed to all of the species identified in paragraph 1 of the Office action of October 25, 2004 (Paper No. 10212004). (See MPEP 803, particularly "Criteria For Restriction Between Patentably Distinct Inventions"..

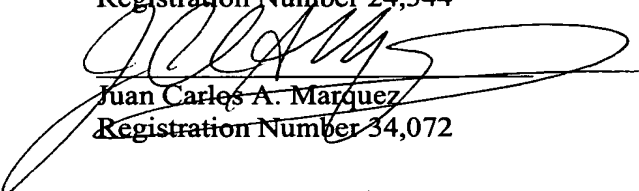
In this regard, it is respectfully submitted that the Office action of October 25, 2004 (Paper No. 10212004) does not identify any class or subclass for search, nor indicate that any of the identified patentably distinct species is in a separate class/subclass for search. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that there is not a serious burden on the Examiner in searching and examining claims directed to the patentably distinct species identified in paragraph 1 of the Office action of October 25, 2004 (Paper No. 10212004).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the election of species requirement are respectfully requested.

Substantive consideration of the claims directed to the elected species is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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